

Application No. 10/009,627
Applicant: Isamu UEMASU et al
Reply to Office Communication mailed 06/03/2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancel)

2. (Cancel)

3. (Currently Amended) A continuous and selective inclusion separation method as claimed in claim ~~18~~, characterized in that said inclusion-complexing agent is a-at least one cyclodextrin(s).

4. (Currently Amended) A continuous and selective inclusion separation method as claimed in claim ~~38~~, characterized in that said raw material containing ~~a compound(s)~~ at least one compound to be separated is a raw material selected from the group consisting of indole-containing mixtures, disubstituted benzene isomer mixtures, trisubstituted benzene isomer mixtures, 2-methylquinoline-containing hydrocarbon oils, 7-methylquinoline-containing mixtures, 2,6-diisopropylnaphthalene-containing mixtures, 2-methylnaphthalene-containing mixtures, 2,6-dimethylnaphthalene-containing mixtures, and optical isomer mixtures of pinene, limonene, menthol, and mandelic acid esters, ~~or the like~~.

5. (Currently Amended) A continuous and selective inclusion separation method as claimed in claim ~~18~~, characterized in that at least part of a solution as the organic phase containing a compound extracted thereinto as an object of separation is withdrawn and distilled to concentrate said compound, and the organic solvent separated by distillation is returned back to the reaction system and reused as the extraction solvent.

6. (Cancel)

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7. (Cancel)

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8. (New) A continuous and selective inclusion separation method characterized in that, in a reaction system which has at least two liquid-liquid interfaces between an organic phase of raw material containing at least one compound to be separated and an aqueous phase of an aqueous solution of inclusion-complexing agent and between said aqueous phase and at least one organic phase of extraction solvent, and wherein a diaphragm easily permeable to said aqueous solution of inclusion-complexing agent but hardly permeable to oil droplets of the two or more organic phases is provided in said aqueous phase to prevent said two or more organic phases from mixing with each other via said aqueous phase with stirring, at least neighborhoods of the respective liquid-liquid interfaces are stirred to entrap said at least one compound to be separated into said aqueous phase through formation of at least one inclusion complex of said inclusion-complexing agent with said at least one compound while entrapping said at least one compound into said at least one organic phase of extraction solvent through dissociation of said at least one inclusion complex.

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CONDITIONAL PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

If entry and consideration of the amendments above requires an extension of time, Applicants respectfully request that this be considered a petition therefor. The Assistant Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee(s) due in this connection to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

ADDITIONAL FEE

Please charge any insufficiency of fees, or credit any excess, to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.